

Utah's waterfowl hunting

If you're looking for a long waterfowl hunting season in an area filled with birds, Utah is indeed "the place."

Because the salt water in the Great Salt Lake doesn't freeze, great hunting opportunities are available throughout the state's long 107-day season. The freshwater marshes on the eastern shore of the Great Salt Lake also form one of the largest marsh complexes in North America. Millions of waterfowl stop in these marshes during their fall migration, providing great opportunities for hunters.

And Utah is one of only three states in the Intermountain West where you can hunt swans.

The Division of Wildlife Resources hopes you'll take advantage of these opportunities and that you have a fun and safe time in the marsh this season!

As you read through this guide, please be aware that it's only a summary of the rules and laws that regulate waterfowl hunting in Utah. The guide is intended as a short, ready reference for hunters. Further review of the rules and laws governing the taking of waterfowl in Utah is advised. These rules and laws may be accessed at wildlife.utah.gov/rules or at the nearest Division office.

As you read through the guide, you'll notice references to wildlife rules and laws under each subheading (for example, Utah Admin. Code R657-6-9 and Utah Code § 23-19-1). These references will help you find the complete rule or law when you visit wildlife.utah.gov/rules or the nearest Division office.

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The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is funded by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and through federal aid made possible by an excise tax on the sale of firearms and other hunting- and fishing-related equipment.

The DWR also receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and must abide by federal laws. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you desire further information please write to: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Diversity and Civil Rights Programs-External Programs, 4040 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 130, Arlington, VA 22203.

HIGHLIGHTS

What's new this season?

Goose season changes: Two Canada goose hunting seasons will be held in Utah this year:

- In the North Goose Zone, the goose hunt runs October 6, 2007 through January 19, 2008. A boundary description for the North Goose Zone is available on page XX of this guide.
- Across the rest of the state, the season is split. The first part of the season runs October 6 through October 18, 2007. The season will then close for about one week, and then it will reopen on October 27, 2007 and run until January 27, 2008.

Because of federal law, Utah's goose season cannot run more than 107 days. Closing the season for one week in October will leave enough days for hunters to hunt geese into late January, which is the time of year when geese begin leaving urban areas and start visiting the marshes again in preparation for the breeding and nesting season.

Minimum hunting age removed: The Utah legislature has removed the minimum age at which a person can hunt waterfowl in Utah. Any young person who has completed a hunter education course offered or approved by the Division of Wildlife Resources can now purchase a hunting or combination license, regardless of the person's age. Young hunters can also apply for or purchase a swan permit.

Please see the Age Requirements and Hunter Education Requirements portions of this guide on page X for more information.

Non-Residents can now purchase a combination license. The fee for this license is \$80 and allows you to hunt small game, fish and apply for Utah's big game, bear, cougar and turkey permits.

Also remember

Don't litter: Please keep Utah's marshes clean. Pack out whatever you pack into the marsh, including spent shotgun shells. If you don't comply with this regulation, you could receive a

citation.

Retrieval of waterfowl: Before hunting in an area, make sure you have a way to retrieve the birds you shoot. Because of mud or deep water, you may need chest waders, a dog or a boat. Please hunt only in areas where you're sure you can retrieve your birds. Not attempting to retrieve your waterfowl could result in a citation.

Don't forget to register in the HIP: To hunt migratory game birds, including waterfowl, coot and snipe, you must register in the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP). The program provides biologists with valuable information about the country's migratory game birds.

You must register in the HIP every season. Registration is easy and takes about 5 minutes to complete. For more information, see page 5 of this guide.

Off-highway vehicles: Off-highway vehicles are not permitted on state waterfowl management areas, except as marked or posted open.

Private lands: You must obtain written permission from the landowner or an authorized representative of the landowner to enter upon privately owned land that is cultivated or properly posted.

"Cultivated land" means land that is readily identifiable as: 1) land whose soil is loosened or broken up for the raising of crops; 2) land used for the raising of crops; or 3) pasturage that is artificially irrigated.

License suspension: The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has the authority to suspend hunting and fishing privileges for wildlife violations if the Division deems that the violation was committed knowingly, intentionally or recklessly. Any person who is convicted of, pleads guilty to, no contest to, or enters a plea in abeyance to, a wildlife violation may be subject to administrative suspension. Notification of such action is generally served only after criminal proceedings have been concluded. Any Utah order of suspension may be recognized in other states participating in the Wildlife Violator Compact.

Swan Drawing Results

Drawing results will be available September 12, 2007. For drawing results call Utah Wildlife Administrative Services toll-free at 1-800-221-0659 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or go online: wildlife.utah.gov. In the interest of protecting applicant privacy, and to comply with recent changes in governmental records access laws, applicants may obtain access to their own drawing results only.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Salt Lake Office
1594 W North Temple
PO Box 146301
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301
(801) 538-4700

Southeastern Region
475 W Price River Dr., Ste. C
Price, UT 84501
(435) 636-0260

Central Region
1115 N Main St.
Springville, UT 84663
(801) 491-5678

Northeastern Region
152 E 100 N
Vernal, UT 84078
(435) 781-9453

Northern Region
515 E 5300 S
Ogden, UT 84405
(801) 476-2740

Southern Region
PO Box 606
1470 N. Airport Rd.
Cedar City, UT 84720
(435) 865-6100

Judging Distances in the Marsh

Deciding when a duck or goose is close enough to shoot at is one of the toughest decisions hunters have to make in the marsh.

It can be challenging to judge the distance of a bird as it sails overhead or swings into your decoys. Fortunately, there is a simple and effective way to learn how to judge distances before you ever get into the marsh.

"The first thing to remember is that your chance of making a clean kill on a duck, goose or swan goes down dramatically if the bird is more than 40 yards away," says Lenny Rees, hunter education coordinator for the Division of Wildlife Resources.

Rees says steel pellets are light and get to their target fast, but once they reach 40 yards, they start to slow down and don't retain enough energy to make clean kills. He offers a simple way to learn how far 40 yards is:

Find an area that's at least 50 yards long, and place four regular-sized ducks decoys 20, 30, 40 and 50 yards from your starting point (don't use magnum decoys because they're bigger than an actual duck).

If you don't have four regular-sized duck decoys, four pieces of cardboard cut 21 inches long by 4 inches high (the size of a medium-sized duck) will also work.

After placing your targets, go back to your starting point, bring your unloaded shotgun to your shoulder and aim it at the target that's 20 yards away. Notice how big your barrel looks in relation to the size of the target. Then aim at the targets that are 30, 40 and 50 yards away.

"You never want to shoot at a bird that's more than 40 yards away, but you still want to aim at the target that's 50 yards away to get a visual picture of what a bird looks like at that distance," Rees says.

Practice this exercise enough and you'll start to get a visual picture of what birds look like when you view them over your barrel at different distances in the marsh.

Rees has another tip that you can use at your hunting spot. "Place at least one of your decoys 40 yards from where you're sitting," he says. "You can mark this distance off by counting the number of steps it takes for you to walk 40 yards and then walking that many steps before you place your decoy, or by using a rangefinder."

After you've placed a decoy at 40 yards, you'll know that any low flying bird that flies farther out than the decoy placed at 40 yards is out-of-range.

Patterning your gun

Patterning shotguns is another important thing Rees says every waterfowl hunter should do.

To pattern your gun, find a place where guns are allowed and where you can shoot safely. Place a piece of cardboard or plywood 40 yards from your shooting position and draw a 30-inch circle (30 inches in diameter) on your target. Then go back to your starting position, place in your gun the same type of shotgun shell you hunt ducks, geese or swans with and shoot at the middle of the circle.

From this distance, Rees says most of the pellets in the target should be inside the 30-inch circle. "If most of the pellets aren't within that 30-inch circle, there's not enough pellets in your

pattern to cleanly kill a duck, goose or swan at 40 yards, and you're probably lacking enough pellets at other distances too," he says.

There are two things you can do if the number of pellets within the 30-inch circle is lacking:

- Change to a tighter choke. For example, if you're using a modified choke, switch to a full choke.
- If you notice gaps in your pattern (areas within the circle without pellets) and you're shooting shells that you or someone else has reloaded, you might need to change your powder mix. (Too much powder can cause these gaps, so you may want to add less powder.)

Rees says it's important that hunters shoot at birds only if they're within range. "If you shoot at a bird that's too far away, the chance that the bird will be wounded and lost goes up dramatically," he says.

"Shooting at birds that are too far away will also spook them away from your area. These birds may have provided a great shot to you, or to other hunters, if you had allowed the birds to fly in and work the area."

LICENSE, STAMP AND HIP NUMBER REQUIREMENTS

Obtaining the proper hunting license and a Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) number are the first steps to hunting waterfowl in Utah. Depending on your age, you may also need a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp. This section provides information about each of these items and how to obtain them.

Hunting and combination licenses

Utah Code § 23-19-1

You must purchase either a hunting license or a combination license to hunt waterfowl in Utah. Here's the difference between the two licenses:

- A hunting license allows you to hunt small game, including waterfowl and upland game.
- If you like to fish, you may want to buy a combination license. A combination license allows you to fish and hunt small game in Utah. When you buy a combination license, you also get a price break compared to buying a hunting and fishing license separately.

Licenses are available at wildlife.utah.gov and from license agents and Division offices.

You must carry your license with you while you're hunting, and you cannot alter your license, or transfer or lend it to another person.

Stamp requirements

Utah Admin. Code R657-9-3

In addition to your hunting license, if you're 16 years of age or older, you must obtain a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp. This stamp is commonly referred to as a "duck stamp." Many license agents sell these stamps, or you can buy one at your local post office.

After you buy your stamp, you must validate it by signing your name in ink across the face of the stamp. You must also carry your stamp with you while you're hunting (most hunters place their stamp on the back of their hunting license).

If you're 15 years of age or younger, you do not need a federal duck stamp to hunt waterfowl, but if you turn 16 during the season, you must buy a stamp to hunt the remainder of the season.

Migratory bird HIP registration

50 CFR 20.20 and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-35

In addition to your license (and your duck stamp, if required) you must obtain a Migratory

Game Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration number every season. You can obtain your HIP number one of two ways:

1. Register at www.uthip.com
2. Call 1-877-UTAH-744 (1-877-882-4744). If you have questions or need help obtaining your HIP number, please call 1-800-368-4683.

You must provide the following information to obtain your HIP number: your hunting license number and hunting license type; your name, address, phone number and date of birth; and information about any migratory game bird hunts you participated in during the 2006 – 2007 season.

Once you've obtained your HIP number, you must write the number in the space provided on your hunting license. If you're a lifetime license holder, you'll receive a sticker every three years from the Division that you can write your HIP number on and place on your lifetime license card.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service started the HIP in the mid-1990s. The program provides biologists with information that helps them better manage the nation's migratory game bird populations.

Age requirements

Utah Code § 23-20-20

A hunter under the age of 14 must be accompanied by his or her parent, a legal guardian or a responsible person 21 years of age or older who their parent or guardian has approved to take the young person hunting.

Hunters who are 14 or 15 must be accompanied by a person 21 years of age or older.

"Accompanied" means the youth and the adult are close enough that the adult can see and verbally communicate with the young hunter to provide direction and assistance. The adult cannot use electronic devices, such as walkie-talkies or cell phones, to communicate with the youth hunter: the adult must be close enough to provide the youth hunter with the direction and assistance he or she needs

Hunter education requirements

Utah Code § 23-19-11 and Utah Admin. Code R657-23

If you were born after December 31, 1965, you must provide proof that you've passed a hunter education course approved by the Division before you can buy a hunting license or apply for a swan permit.

This proof can be a hunter education course Certificate of Completion (this certificate is called a "blue card" in Utah) or a hunting license from a previous year with your hunter education number noted on the license.

If you become a Utah resident, and you've completed a hunter education course in another state, province or country, you must obtain a blue card before you can buy a resident hunting or combination license. You can obtain a Utah blue card at any Division office by providing proof that you've completed a hunter education course approved by the Division. The card costs \$10.

Hunting accommodations for people with disabilities

Utah Admin. Code R657-12

If you have certain physical disabilities, you may qualify for special hunting accommodations in Utah. For a complete copy of these regulations (Utah Admin. Code R657-12) visit wildlife.utah.gov/rules or call any Division office.

Waterfowl hunting fees

Resident license fees

Combination license *	\$30
Hunting license* (under 14 years of age)	\$11
Hunting license* (14 years of age or older)	\$26

Nonresident license fees	
Combination license*	\$80
Hunting license*	\$65
3-day small game license	\$25

Stamp fees

Federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp \$15
(available at U.S. Post Offices and some license agents)

Swan Application Handling Fee (nonrefundable) \$10

* Hunting and combination licenses are now valid for 365 days from the day you buy them.

Asian Bird Flu and Wild Birds

By early August 2006, the virus that causes avian influenza in wild birds had not been detected in Utah or anywhere in North America. However, as part of a national effort to detect the virus in wild birds, the Division of Wildlife Resources and several other state and federal agencies will continue a surveillance program they've set up in Utah.

The DWR wants hunters to know that even if the virus is found in Utah, there is little reason to be concerned. "We're concerned about avian influenza arriving here, but even if it does, people shouldn't panic," says Leslie McFarlane, wildlife disease specialist for the DWR. "As long as hunters take some simple precautions, they should be fine."

The DWR provides the following information about avian influenza, including tips hunters can follow to protect themselves:

Avian influenza facts

Avian influenza is common in wild bird populations, but it usually only affects small numbers of migratory aquatic birds. The virus typically causes few, if any, symptoms in the birds it infects.

The occurrence of the avian influenza virus in wild migratory birds is most frequent in waterfowl and shorebirds. The virus is spread through nasal and oral discharges, and fecal droppings.

One type of the avian influenza virus, Asian H5N1, has been found in Europe. It's very contagious among certain birds and is deadly to domestic poultry, such as chickens and ducks. It has also affected a small number of people, but it typically cannot be passed directly to humans.

Tips for hunters

While it's highly unlikely that hunters will contract avian influenza from wild birds, following these standard precautions reduces the risk of contracting avian influenza, or any other wildlife disease:

- Do not harvest any bird that appears sick, and do not pick up diseased or dead birds.
- Do not handle or eat sick birds.
- Keep your game birds cool, clean and dry.
- Wear rubber or disposable latex gloves while handling and cleaning your birds. After cleaning the birds, wash your hands with soap and water and thoroughly clean all knives, equipment and surfaces that came in contact with the birds. Disinfect these items using a solution that's 90 percent water and 10 percent chlorine bleach.
- All birds should be cooked thoroughly (well done or at 160 degrees F).
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling your birds.

For more information about avian influenza, please visit wildlife.utah.gov/diseases/avian_influenza.php.

Frequently asked questions

Q: Can humans catch avian influenza from wild birds?

A: There is only one known case where the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus has been passed from wild birds to humans.

Q: How could H5N1 arrive in North America?

A: Migratory birds, particularly waterfowl and shorebirds, cross the Bering Sea between Alaska and Asia during their seasonal cycles of breeding, molting and wintering. The role of wild migratory birds in the spread of H5N1 between regions remains poorly understood, and it is not clear whether the H5N1 virus is persistent in wild bird populations or whether wild birds pose a long-term risk. If it arrives in North America, the H5N1 virus is more likely to be transported by people who are infected, or through virus-contaminated articles or illegally imported birds or bird products.

Q: What is the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources doing about avian influenza?

A: The DWR will test Northern pintail, Northern shoveler, green-winged teal and tundra swan that hunters take this fall as part of a surveillance program implemented to provide early detection of H5N1 should it appear in Utah.

SWAN HUNTING

Utah is one of the few places in the country where you can experience the thrill that comes from hunting swans. To hunt swans in Utah, you must complete a one-time swan hunting orientation course. You must complete the course before you can apply for a swan permit or obtain any swan permit that's left over after the Swan Draw. After you've taken the course, you don't have to take it again as long as you follow the rules listed in the Getting Your Swan Examined/Completing a Swan Questionnaire section found in this portion of the guide.

After completing the course, you must obtain the following to hunt swans: a swan permit, a Utah hunting or combination license or a Utah Non-resident 3-day small game license, a HIP number, and if you're 16 years of age or older, a federal duck stamp. If your hunting license expires before the swan season ends, you'll have to buy a new license to hunt the remainder of the season.

The best chance to obtain a swan permit is to apply for one in Utah's Swan Draw. A total of 2,000 permits are issued each year. In 2006, a total of 3,708 hunters applied for a swan permit.

Swan orientation course

The Swan Orientation Course provides information about swans, including information that will help you identify tundra swans and trumpeter swans in flight. Both are legal to take, but the Division encourages you to avoid shooting trumpeter swans. The course takes about 30 minutes to complete and is available online at sci-nevada/utswancourse. Even if you don't plan on hunting swans this season, the Division encourages you to take the course.

Applying for a swan permit

Utah Admin. Code R657-9-4 and R657-42

When applying for a swan permit, each applicant will be charged a \$10 non-refundable handling fee to cover the cost of processing the swan application, but there is no fee for the permit itself.

In addition to a swan permit, a valid hunting, combination or non-resident 3-day small game license is required to hunt swans. You must obtain one of these licenses before you can obtain a swan permit.

- If you purchase a hunting or combination license before applying, make sure you include your license number on your swan application.

- If you do not purchase a hunting or combination license before applying and are successful in the drawing a hunting or combination license will be issued to you and charged to the Credit or Debit card used for the application.

If you do not draw a permit, a hunting or combination license will not be issued to you, and only the \$10 application fee will be charged.

American Express, Discover, MasterCard and VISA credit or debit cards are the only methods of payment accepted and they must be valid through October 2007.

Handling fees and donations will be charged to your credit or debit card when your application is processed. Your application can be voided if your credit or debit card is invalid or refused.

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Applying online is quick and easy!

The only way to apply for a 2007 Utah swan permit is online at *wildlife.utah.gov*. There are many advantages to applying online:

- you can apply from your home, office or any location that has Internet access
- you can submit your application within minutes and receive an e-mail confirmation
- your application won't be lost in the mail
- the online application alerts you if you make an error
- the online application provides you with the correct hunt numbers
- drawing results will be sent to your e-mail address
- you'll receive a postcard the following year that reminds you about that year's swan application period

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Important dates for swan hunters

Utah Admin. Code R657-9-4, R-657-9-5 and R657-42

August 10: Applications available

You can apply for a permit at *wildlife.utah.gov*. Residents and nonresidents may apply.

To apply for a resident permit, you must be a resident at the time the permit is purchased. September 12, 2007, is considered the purchase date of the permit and the date by which you must establish residency in the state of Utah in order to apply for a resident permit.

You may not apply for a swan permit more than once each year, and group applications are not accepted.

August 24: Application deadline

Applications must be submitted at *wildlife.utah.gov* no later than 11 p.m. on August 24, 2007.

August 31: Making changes to or withdrawing your application

You can make changes to your application by requesting the changes in writing by August 31, 2007.

An application amendment form is available at *wildlife.utah.gov* and at Division offices. The form requests all of the information needed to change your application. Send the amendment form, which must include your notarized signature, to Utah Wildlife Administrative Services Office, P.O. Box 30389, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84130-0389.

If you decide to withdraw your swan application from the drawing, you must do so in writing by August 31, 2007. You must send your notarized signature, with a statement requesting that your application be withdrawn, to Utah Wildlife Administrative Services Office, P.O. Box 30389, Salt

Lake City, Utah, 84130-0389. The handling fees you submitted with your application will not be refunded.

September 12: Drawing results available

You will be notified of the drawing results by mail and e-mail. Drawing results also will be available at *wildlife.utah.gov* or may be obtained by calling 1-800-221-0659.

If you're successful in the drawing, you'll receive your permit in the mail by late September. You may obtain only one swan permit each year.

Please be aware that if you receive your permit, and then the check or credit card you used for payment is refused, your permit becomes invalid and you may not hunt swans. If this happens, please contact a Division office to resolve the problem.

September 28: Remaining permits available

Any permits remaining after the drawing may be obtained beginning September 28, 2007 at *wildlife.utah.gov* and from license agents and Division offices. Remaining permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tagging swans

Utah Code § 23-20-30 and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-6

After you've taken a swan, you must tag the swan before you move the carcass from or leave the site of the kill.

To tag a swan, completely detach the tag from your swan permit and completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with the month and day the swan was taken. Then attach the tag to the carcass so that the tag remains securely fastened and visible.

Your swan tag also includes a notch that indicates the sex of the bird, but you do not need to remove this notch; you only need to remove the notches that indicate when the bird was taken.

You may not remove more than one notch indicating the month or day the swan was taken, or tag more than one swan using the same tag. Also, you may not hunt or pursue swans after any of the notches have been removed from the tag or the tag has been detached from your permit.

Getting your swan examined / completing a swan questionnaire

Utah Admin. Code R657-9-7

Swan Examination

In addition to tagging your swan, you must take the swan or its head to a Division office, or the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge office, within three days of taking the swan. A staff person will examine the swan or its head and ask you some questions. This visit provides biologists with valuable information about swans in Utah.

You do not have to complete a swan questionnaire if you take a swan and have it examined by agency staff.

Swan Questionnaire

You must complete a swan questionnaire by January 9, 2008 if you obtain a swan permit but you don't end up hunting for swans, or you hunt for swans but don't take one. You can complete the questionnaire at *wildlife.utah.gov* or by calling 1-800-221-0659.

It's important to comply with the requirements listed above. If you don't:

- you may not obtain a swan permit for the 2008 season; and
- you'll have to complete the swan orientation course again before you can apply for or obtain another swan permit.

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If you missed the deadline to report your swan harvest last year, you can now pay a late fee

and be eligible to apply this year. Contact your regional division office for more information.

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FIELD REQUIREMENTS

Utah Code § 23-20-25

While hunting waterfowl in Utah, there are several requirements you must keep in mind to protect yourself and the resource. Please be familiar with the requirements for carrying and using shotguns, the different types of hunting methods that may and may not be used and what you're required to do with any waterfowl you take.

To help the Division fulfill its responsibility as trustee and custodian of Utah's wildlife, Division conservation officers monitor the taking and possession of wildlife, and the required licenses and firearms and equipment used for hunting. Hunters should expect to encounter conservation officers and biologists checking hunters in the field and at checkpoints.

If you're contacted by a conservation officer, you must provide the officer with the items he or she requests, including any licenses required for hunting, any devices used to participate in hunting and any game that you've taken. These contacts allow the Division to collect valuable information about wildlife in Utah.

Firearms and archery tackle

Several rules apply to the type of shotguns and archery tackle that may be used to take waterfowl in Utah.

Weapon requirements

50 CFR 20.21 and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-9

You may take migratory game birds only with a shotgun that's no larger than 10 gauge or with archery tackle (you may not take waterfowl with a crossbow, however). Also, the shotgun you use cannot be capable of holding more than three shells (one in the chamber and two in the magazine).

Many shotguns can hold more than two shells in the magazine, but making these guns legal for waterfowl hunting is easy. An inexpensive item, called a "shotgun plug," comes with most shotguns or you can purchase one at most sporting goods stores. Place the plug in the magazine of your gun, and your gun should not be capable of holding more than two shells in the magazine.

Nontoxic shot and use of firearms and archery tackle

50 CFR 20.21(j) and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-10 and R657-9-11

A shotgun with nontoxic shot is the only firearm and ammunition you may have in your possession while hunting waterfowl or coot in any area of the state. In addition, nontoxic shot is the only shot you may have in your possession while visiting or hunting any species of wildlife on federal refuges, the Scott M. Matheson wetland preserve, and the following waterfowl management areas (to learn what nontoxic shot is, please see page XX of this guide):

- Box Elder County—Harold S. Crane, Locomotive Springs, Public Shooting Grounds and Salt Creek;
- Daggett County—Brown's Park;
- Davis County—Farmington Bay, Howard Slough and Ogden Bay;
- Emery County—Desert Lake;

- Juab County—Mill Meadows
- Millard County—Clear Lake;
- Sanpete County—Manti Meadows
- Tooele County—Blue Lake and Timpie Springs;
- Uintah County—Stewart Lake;
- Utah County—Powell Slough;
- Wayne County—Bicknell Bottoms; and
- Weber County—Ogden Bay and Harold S. Crane.

You may not possess a firearm or archery tackle on any of the areas listed above any time of the year except during the specified waterfowl hunting seasons or as authorized by the Division.

The firearm restrictions in this section do not apply to concealed firearm permit holders carrying a concealed weapon in accordance with Title 53, Chapter 5, Part 7 of the Utah Code. Please see Utah Code § 76-10-504 at wildlife.utah.gov/rules for more information.

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CAN YOU POSSESS A WEAPON?

Restricted persons and the possession of dangerous weapons

Utah Code § 76-10-503

It is illegal under Utah Code Section 76-10-503 to possess or use a firearm, muzzleloader, archery tackle or any other dangerous weapon if you:

- Have been convicted of or are under indictment for any felony offense;
- Are on probation or parole for a felony offense;
- Are on parole from a secure facility;
- Have been adjudicated delinquent (juvenile) in the last seven years of an offense that, if committed by an adult, would have been a felony;
- Are an unlawful user of a controlled substance;
- Have been found not guilty by reason of insanity for a felony offense;
- Have been found mentally incompetent to stand trial for a felony offense;
- Have been adjudicated mentally defective as provided in the federal Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act;
- Have been committed to a mental institution;
- Are an alien who is illegally in the United States;
- Have been dishonorably discharged from the armed forces; or
- Have renounced your citizenship as a United States citizen.

The purchase or possession of any hunting license, permit, tag or certificate of registration from the Division of Wildlife Resources does not authorize the holder to legally possess or use a firearm, muzzleloader, archery tackle or any other dangerous weapon while hunting if they are otherwise restricted from possessing these weapons under Section 76-10-503.

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Loaded firearms in a vehicle

Utah Code §§ 76-10-502 and 76-10-505

You may not carry a loaded firearm in or on a vehicle. A shotgun is considered loaded when an unfired shell is in the firing position.

A muzzleloading firearm is considered loaded when it is capped or primed and has a powder charge and ball or shot in the barrel or cylinders.

Areas where you can't discharge a firearm

Utah Code § 76-10-508 and Utah Admin. Code R657-12

You may not discharge a firearm:

- from a vehicle;
- from, upon or across any highway;

- at power lines; or
- without written permission from the owner or person in charge of the property within 600 feet of:
 - a house, dwelling or any other building;
 - any structure in which a domestic animal is kept or fed, including a barn, poultry yard, corral, feeding pen or stockyard.

State parks

Utah Admin. Code R657-9-32 and R651-614-4

Hunting any wildlife is prohibited within the boundaries of all state park areas, except those designated open to hunting by the Division of Parks and Recreation in Utah Admin. Code R651-614-4.

Hunting with shotguns or archery tackle in park areas designated open to hunting is prohibited within one-quarter miles of all park facilities, including buildings, camp or picnic sites, overlooks, golf courses, boat ramps and developed beaches.

In addition to the rules above, the Great Salt Lake Marina and posted areas adjacent to the marina are closed to hunting.

Waterfowl hunting, including the retrieval of downed birds, is also prohibited on all of Antelope Island except for the following areas:

- 100 yards beyond the existing shoreline from the Fielding Garr ranch, proceeding around the north end of the island and then south to Elephant Head; and
- below the upland vegetation line of the island from the Fielding Garr ranch, proceeding around the south end of the island and then north to Elephant Head.

Hunting methods

Several rules apply to the methods that may be used to hunt waterfowl in Utah.

Use of boats, and airborne and land vehicles

50 CFR 20.21(e) and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-12

You can use a boat to hunt waterfowl if you obey the following rules:

- Migratory game birds may not be taken from any motorboat, or craft that has a motor attached to it, unless the motor has been completely shut off and the motorboat or craft has stopped moving. Also, migratory game birds may not be taken from a sailboat unless the boat's sails are furled and the boat has stopped moving.

You can use any of these crafts under power to retrieve dead or crippled birds, but you may not shoot crippled birds from a craft if its motor is still running.

Also, you may not use any of the crafts listed above, or any type of motor-driven land, water or air transportation, to concentrate, drive, rally or stir up migratory birds.

Airboats and personal watercraft

Utah Admin. Code R657-9-13

Air-thrust or air-propelled boats and personal watercraft are not allowed in designated parts of the following waterfowl management or federal refuge areas:

- Box Elder County: Box Elder Lake, Bear River, that part of Harold S. Crane within one-half mile of all dikes and levees, Locomotive Springs, Public Shooting Grounds and Salt Creek, and that part of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge north of the "D" line dike, and outside Units 1, 3, 4 and 5 as posted.
- Daggett County: Brown's Park
- Davis County: Howard Slough, Ogden Bay and Farmington Bay within diked units or as posted.
- Emery County: Desert Lake
- Millard County: Clear Lake
- Tooele County: Timpie Springs
- Uintah County: Stewart Lake
- Utah County: Powell Slough

- Wayne County: Bicknell Bottoms
- Weber County: Ogden Bay within diked units or as posted, and all of the Harold S. Crane Waterfowl Management Area

“Personal watercraft” means a motorboat that is:

- less than 16 feet in length;
- propelled by a water jet pump; and
- designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel, rather than sitting or standing inside the vessel.

Restrictions on motorized boats

Utah Admin. Code R657-9-14

Portions of three WMAs have been set aside for hunters who enjoy walking or paddling nonmotorized boats into the marsh. Motorized boats, which are boats with a motor of any kind, including a gas engine or an electric motor, are not allowed in the following areas:

- Harold S. Crane: Rainbow Pond Unit and the main East Pond Unit
- Farmington Bay, South Crystal Unit
- Public Shooting Grounds, All impoundments north of HWY 83; including Crocker, East Crocker, West Crocker, Mud Lake, and Spires Lake.

In addition: motorized boats are allowed in the Ogden Bay, Unit 3 main impoundment, but motorized boats in this impoundment are restricted to slow, wakeless boating speeds only.

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Boating laws and rules

Waterfowl hunters in Utah should be familiar with Utah's boating laws and rules. A complete copy of the laws and rules is available at www.stateparks.utah.gov.

Some highlights:

- You must carry at least one properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device (PFD) for every person on board your vessel. Every person 12 years of age or younger must wear the PFD whenever they're on the vessel.
- Your motorboat must display appropriate navigation lights while you're on the water between sunset and sunrise. Manually propelled boats may use a white light, ready at hand, which can be displayed in sufficient time to prevent a collision with another boat. Bright white lights on the front of your boat make it difficult for other hunters to see your navigation lights. Spotlights should be used intermittently, to locate potential hazards, and should not be left on constantly.
- You may not exceed a wakeless (idle) speed when you're within 150 feet of another boat, a person in or floating on the water, a launching ramp, a dock or in an area designated as a wakeless speed area.
- Airboats operated on the Great Salt Lake and refuges adjacent to the lake must have on board a compass and one of the following: approved flares, a strobe light or other visual distress signal.
- All motorboats, including those with electric motors, must be registered and numbered.

<end info box>

Motorized vehicle access on waterfowl management areas

Utah Admin. Code R657-9-14

Motorized vehicle travel on state waterfowl management areas is restricted to county roads, improved roads and parking areas.

Off-highway vehicles are not permitted on state waterfowl management areas, except in areas that are marked or posted open to their use.

Off-highway vehicles are not permitted on the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.

Waterfowl blinds on waterfowl management areas

Utah Admin. Code R657-9-36

You can construct and use waterfowl blinds on Division waterfowl management areas (WMAs) as long as you obey the following rules:

- Waterfowl blinds may not be left unattended overnight unless they're constructed entirely of non-woody, vegetative materials that naturally occur where the blind is located.
- Live or dead-standing trees and shrubs on WMAs may not be cut or damaged unless the Division gives express, written permission to do so.
- Soil or rock, above or below the water's surface, may not be excavated on a WMA unless the Division gives express, written permission to do so.
- Rock and soil material may not be transported to a WMA to construct a blind.
- Waterfowl blinds may not be constructed or used in any area or manner that obstructs vehicle or pedestrian travel on dikes.

Waterfowl blinds that are constructed or maintained on WMAs in violation of the rules above may be removed or destroyed by the Division without notice.

The restrictions above do not apply to the following WMA areas:

- Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area - west and north of Unit 1, Turpin Unit and Crystal Unit.
- Howard Slough Waterfowl Management Area - west and south of the exterior dike separating the WMA's fresh water impoundments from the Great Salt Lake.
- Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area - west of Unit 1, Unit 2, and Unit 3.
- Harold S. Crane Waterfowl Management Area - one half mile north and west of the exterior dike separating the WMA's fresh water impoundments from the Willard Spur.

Other important rules: In addition to the rules above, two other important rules apply to waterfowl blinds on WMAs and other state lands that are open to public hunting:

- Any person may use any unoccupied, permanent waterfowl blind. Waterfowl blinds on state lands are open on a first-come, first-served basis to everyone, not just to the person who built the blind.
- You cannot leave waterfowl blinds or decoys unattended overnight to reserve that spot.

Sinkbox

50 CFR 20.21(c) and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-15

You cannot take migratory game birds from any type of low floating device that allows you to be concealed beneath the surface of the water. Called "sink boxes," these devices float on the water, but they float barely above the water's surface. You cannot hunt from sink boxes. You can hunt from boxes, blinds or culverts that are attached to the bottom of the body of water you're hunting, however.

Using dogs to hunt

Utah Admin. Code R657-9-30

Dogs may be used to locate and retrieve waterfowl during open hunting seasons.

Dogs are not allowed on state wildlife management or waterfowl management areas, except during open hunting seasons or as posted by the Division.

Live decoys

50 CFR 20.21(f) and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-16

You may not use live birds as decoys.

Also, you may not take migratory game birds from an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present. The only exception is if the tame or captive live ducks or geese are and have been, for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to you taking migratory game birds, confined inside an enclosure that substantially reduces the sound of their calls and totally conceals the birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl.

Amplified bird calls

50 CFR 20.21 (g) and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-17

You may not use recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.

Baiting

50 CFR 20.21 (i) and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-18

Baiting is an illegal activity that involves the spreading of shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, or salt or other feed, to lure, attract or entice birds to an area. You may not hunt waterfowl, snipe or coots by baiting. You also cannot hunt on or over any baited area if you know, or reasonably should know, that the area is or has been baited. An area is considered to be a baited area for 10 days after the bait has been removed from the area, or for 10 days after the bait in the area has been eaten.

You may not take waterfowl or coots on or over lands or areas where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered as the result of the manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown (for example, a farmer shredding corn in a field and letting the corn remain where it fell). You may take snipe on or over these areas, however.

You also may take waterfowl, snipe and coots on or over the following lands or areas, as long as these areas have not been baited:

- standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics); standing, flooded or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation (for example, a farmer working his land after the harvest is over) or normal soil stabilization practice (for example, a farmer planting a cover crop to protect the soil during the winter);
- from a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;
- from a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed; or
- standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys or retrieving downed birds.

Falconry

Utah Admin. Code R657-9-34

If you're interested in hunting waterfowl or coots with a falcon, you must obtain a hunting or combination license, a federal migratory game bird stamp and a falconry certificate of registration (COR).

The areas open and the bag and possession limits for falconry are listed on page XX.

See the Falconry Proclamation at wildlife.utah.gov/proclamations for more information.

Closed areas

Utah Admin. Code R657-9-32

Unless you have prior permission from the Division, you may visit state waterfowl management areas (WMAs) only during the hunting season or for other activities for which the WMAs have been posted open. While you're on a WMA, you may not participate in activities that are prohibited on the WMA.

In addition to the rules above, the following areas are closed to the taking, hunting, shooting at or rallying of waterfowl, snipe or coot:

- Brown's Park WMA—the part adjacent to the headquarters.
- Clear Lake WMA—Spring Lake.
- Desert Lake WMA—the part known as "Desert Lake."
- Farmington Bay WMA—the headquarters area; within 600 feet of dikes and roads accessible by motorized vehicles; and the waterfowl rest area in the northwest quarter of Unit 1 as posted.

- Ogden Bay WMA—the headquarters area.
- Public Shooting Grounds WMA—the part that lies above and adjacent to the Hull Lake Diversion Dike known as “Duck Lake.”
- Salt Creek WMA—the part known as “Rest Lake.”
- State Parks - Hunting of any wildlife is prohibited within the boundaries of all state park areas except those designated open (Utah Admin. Code R651-614-4).
- Great Salt Lake Marina and adjacent areas as posted.
- Millard County—Gunnison Bend Reservoir and the inflow upstream to the Southerland Bridge.
- Salt Lake International Airport—Hunting and shooting is prohibited. Hunting or shooting on the airport or its related or controlled properties is not allowed without the express, prior written approval of the airport director (Salt Lake City, UT, ORD. Sec. 16.12.325).

The following areas also are closed to trespass of any kind:

- Clear Lake WMA—Spring Lake.
- Desert Lake WMA—the part known as “Desert Lake.”
- Farmington Bay WMA—the waterfowl rest area in the northwest quarter of Unit 1 as posted.
- Public Shooting Grounds WMA—the part that lies above and adjacent to the Hull Lake Diversion Dike known as “Duck Lake.”

Trespassing

Utah Code §§ 23-20-14 and 23-20-3.5

While taking wildlife or engaging in wildlife-related activities, you may not:

- enter upon privately owned land that is cultivated or properly posted without the permission of the owner or person in charge of the property;
- refuse to immediately leave the private land if requested to do so by the owner or person in charge; or
- obstruct any entrance or exit to private property.

“Cultivated land” is land that is readily identifiable as land whose soil is loosened or broken up for the raising of crops, land used for the raising of crops, or a pasture that is artificially irrigated.

“Permission” means written authorization from the owner or person in charge to enter upon private land that is cultivated or properly posted. Permission must include:

- the signature of the owner or person in charge;
- the name of the person being given permission;
- the appropriate dates; and
- a general description of the property.

“Properly posted” means that “No Trespassing” signs or a minimum of 100 square inches of bright yellow, bright orange or fluorescent paint are displayed at all corners, fishing streams crossing property lines, roads, gates and rights-of-way entering the land. If metal fence posts are used, the entire exterior side must be painted.

You may not post private property you do not own or legally control or land that is open to the public as provided by Utah Code § 23-21-4.

In addition, it is unlawful to take protected wildlife or its parts while trespassing in violation of Utah Code § 23-20-14.

Possession and transportation

Once you’ve taken a migratory game bird, several rules apply to the use of the game you’ve taken.

During closed season

50 CFR 20.32 and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-19

You may not possess any freshly killed migratory game birds when the hunting season is closed.

Live birds

50 CFR 20.38 and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-20

You may not possess or transport live migratory game birds. You must immediately kill any migratory game bird you wound and include it in your bag limit.

A hunting license does not give you authority to possess live migratory game birds. More information about the possession of live migratory game birds is found in Utah Admin. Code R657-4 at wildlife.utah.gov/rules.

Waste of migratory game birds

50 CFR 20.25, Utah Code § 23-20-8 and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-21

You may not waste any migratory game birds or permit them to be wasted or spoiled. (Waste means to abandon migratory game birds or to allow them to spoil or be used in a manner not normally associated with their beneficial use. For example, using the meat as fertilizer or for trapping bait is not considered a beneficial use.)

In addition, you may not kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve it. Any migratory game bird that you wound must be immediately killed and included in your bag limit.

Termination of possession

50 CFR 20.39 and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-22

Birds that you have taken are no longer in your possession once you've delivered the birds to another person as a gift, or once you've taken the birds to a migratory bird preservation facility (i.e. a facility where birds are taken to be cleaned and prepared for the table) or to a post office or common carrier and consigned them for transport to a person other than yourself.

Tagging requirement

50 CFR 20.36 and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-23

If you leave your birds in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transporting or storing, including temporary storage, or at a location to have taxidermy services performed, you must tag the birds. You must sign the tag, and it must include your address and Utah hunting license number, the total number and species of birds taken and the date the birds were killed.

If you're transporting migratory game birds that you've taken, the birds are not considered to be in storage or temporary storage, and you don't need to have a tag on them at that time.

Giving birds to someone else

50 CFR 20.40, Utah Code 23-20-9 and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-24

You can give the waterfowl you've taken to another person, but please remember the following:

- If you give birds to someone at your home, or the home of the person you're giving the birds to, the birds do not need to be tagged.

- If you give birds to someone at any location other than your home or their home, you must tag the birds. The tag must include your address and Utah hunting license number, the total number and species of birds you're donating, the date the birds were killed and the date the birds were donated. You must also sign the tag.

- If you accept birds from another hunter, those birds become part of your possession limit. For example, if you have 10 ducks at home in your freezer, and you accept 4 ducks from another

hunter, you now have 14 ducks in your possession. That's the maximum number of ducks you can have in your possession in Utah. You'll have to eat some of those ducks before you can go hunting and take more.

Custody of birds of another

50 CFR 20.37 and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-25

You may not receive or have in your custody migratory game birds that belong to another person unless the birds have been tagged in the manner described in the Tagging Requirement section above.

Species identification requirement

50 CFR 20.43 and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-26

You may not transport migratory game birds within the United States unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each bird while you're transporting them to your home or to a migratory bird preservation facility (i.e. a facility where birds are taken to be cleaned and prepared for the table).

Marking package or container

50 CFR 20.44 and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-27

You may not transport migratory game birds, by the Postal Service or a common carrier, unless the following items are clearly marked on the outside of the package or container:

- your name and address;
- the name and address of the person the birds are being sent to; and
- the number and the species of the birds contained in the package.

A Utah shipping permit must accompany each migratory game bird package that is shipped within or from Utah. Shipping permits are available from the Division.

Migratory bird preservation facilities

50 CFR 20.82 and 20.83 and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-28

No migratory bird preservation facility shall receive or have in custody any migratory game bird unless accurate records are maintained that can identify who each bird was received from and can show:

- (a) the number of each species;
- (b) the location where they were taken;
- (c) the date the birds were received;
- (d) the name and address of the person from whom the birds were received;
- (e) the date the birds were disposed of; and
- (f) the name and address of the person to whom the birds were delivered.

In addition, migratory bird preservation facilities may not destroy any records they are required to maintain under this section for a period of one year following the last entry on record.

Record keeping as required by this section is not necessary at hunting clubs that do not fully process migratory birds by removing their head and wings.

No migratory bird preservation facility may prevent any person authorized to enforce this part from entering their facilities at all reasonable hours and inspecting the records and the premises where bird-processing operations are being carried out.

Importation

For information regarding the importation of migratory game birds you've harvested in another country, please see 50 CFR 20.61 and 20.62, and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-29, at wildlife.utah.gov/rules.

Bag limits

50 CFR 20.11 and 20.24 and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-31

Federal bag and possession limits apply to migratory game bird hunting, regardless of the number of states or provinces you may have hunted in during your trip. For example, if you hunt ducks in two states, the total number of ducks you take cannot exceed a single federal bag and possession limit (e.g. if the federal bag limit is 7 ducks, and you take 5 ducks in one state and then travel to another state and hunt the same day, you can take only 2 ducks in the second state.)

Special regulations for national wildlife refuges in Utah

General regulations

Utah Admin. Code R657-9-32

More than 500 refuges across the nation and the U.S. territories are included in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System. Three of those refuges—Bear River, Fish Springs and Ouray—are located in Utah.

The following regulations apply to all three of these areas:

- Current state and federal regulations apply for season dates, shooting hours, and bag and possession limits.
- Nontoxic shot must be used to hunt.
- Hunters may not enter closed areas to retrieve birds. Therefore, allow enough room between the closed area boundary and where you're hunting to retrieve your birds.
- Camping is not permitted on the refuges.
- Prohibited activities include wood cutting and gathering, littering, disturbing or removing plants or natural objects, and removing artifacts of antiquity. Shell casings and ammunition boxes are litter. Failure to make a reasonable effort to retrieve litter could result in a citation.

The following is specific information and regulations for each of the federal refuges in Utah:

Bear River

50 CFR 32.64 and 27.21

- Hunters may not shoot or hunt within 100 yards of principal refuge roads (tour route).
- Hunters may possess only approved nontoxic shot while in the field.
- Hunters may not use pits or permanent blinds. The building of a temporary blind made of natural material is permitted, but is not allowed prior to the opening day.
- Airboats are permitted only in Unit 9 and Block C of the refuge.
- Hunters may enter the refuge two hours before legal sunrise and must exit the refuge by two hours after legal sunset. The refuge prohibits leaving decoys, boats, vehicles and other personal property on the refuge overnight.
- Hunters may only park in designated parking sites.
- Any hunters entering, using or occupying the refuge for waterfowl hunting must abide by all the terms and conditions in the Refuge Hunting Brochure. The brochure is available at www.fws.gov/bearriver
- When hunters are in their vehicles, at parking lots or traveling on refuge roads, all firearms must be completely unloaded (including magazines) and cased or dismantled.
- Hunters may possess only 10 shells while hunting on or within 50 feet from the center of the dikes on Unit 1A or 2C.
- A portion of the Bear River Refuge will be open for the youth waterfowl hunt (September 29, 2007).
- Archery hunting is not allowed on the refuge.
- Predator and snipe hunting are not allowed on the refuge.

For more information, call the refuge manager at (435) 723-5887.

Fish Springs

50 CFR 32.64

- The refuge allows the hunting of ducks, coots and geese in designated areas.
 - All waterfowl hunters must register individually at the visitor information station before entering the open hunting area and before exiting the refuge.
 - Hunters may only possess firearms legally used to hunt waterfowl unless the firearm is cased or dismantled.
 - Hunters may construct nonpermanent blinds, but must remove all blinds constructed out of materials other than vegetation at the end of the hunting day.
 - The refuge provides a Special Blind Area for use by the disabled. The refuge prohibits trespass for any reason by any individual not registered to utilize the area.
 - The refuge allows the use of small boats, 15 feet or less, but does not allow gasoline motors and air boats.
 - Hunters may enter the refuge two hours before sunrise, and must exit the refuge by 1½ hours after sunset. Hunters may not leave decoys, boats, vehicles and other personal property on the refuge overnight.
 - The refuge will be open for the youth waterfowl hunt (September 29, 2007).
- For more information, call the refuge manager at (435) 831-5353.

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Ouray

Leota Bottom is the only area on the refuge open to duck, goose and coot hunting. Access into Leota Bottom is limited to foot, bike, canoe, row-boat or electric motorized boats. Gas-powered boats are not permitted.

All firearms must be unloaded, cased or dismantled and must remain in the vehicle in the closed hunting areas of the refuge.

The refuge will be open for the youth waterfowl hunt (September 29, 2007).

Snipe and swan hunting are not allowed on the refuge.

The use of pits and permanent blinds is not allowed. The building of a temporary blind made of natural material is permitted, but is not allowed prior to opening day.

For more information, call the refuge manager at (435) 789-0351.

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MERCURY AND DUCKS

Extensive testing has led to advisories cautioning waterfowl hunters not to shoot or eat certain duck species.

Hunters in Utah received some startling news before last year's waterfowl season—samples from two species of ducks contained elevated levels of mercury, and hunters were advised not to shoot or eat them.

Northern shovelers and common goldeneyes were the two species of ducks that hunters were advised not to take.

From early October 2005 through early-February 2006, the Division of Wildlife Resources collected additional tissue samples from several species of ducks. The ducks were collected from hunters at marsh areas stretching from the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge on the northeast shore of the Great Salt Lake to the Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area on the lake's southeast side.

"The samples were sent to the laboratory at Utah State University," Tom Aldrich, migratory game bird coordinator for the DWR, said in early August.

"We'll have the results back before this year's waterfowl season begins," he said. "The results

of last fall's sampling will determine how intense our sampling efforts will be during the upcoming season. Depending on what we find, we may sample more intensely, or we may find that we don't need to sample at all."

Hunters can learn what the DWR finds by visiting wildlife.utah.gov/diseases before the season begins. Links to Web sites that provide additional information about mercury are also available at the site.

Once the DWR obtains the mercury sampling data from the lab at USU, it will turn the results over to the Utah Department of Health. The UDOH will then determine whether Utah's current waterfowl consumption advisories need to be revised.

As of mid-August 2006, the UDOH was still advising hunters not to eat shovelers and goldeneyes. (For help in identifying these ducks, please see the photos on this page and the shoveler illustrations on page 21.)

SEASON DATES AND BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

Utah Admin. Code R657-9-31

Ducks, Mergansers and Coots

Dates: October 6, 2007 through January 19, 2008

Bag limits: Ducks and mergansers—7 daily, except no more than 2 hen mallards; no more than 2 redheads; no more than 1 canvasback; no more than 1 pintail; and no more than 3 scaup. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit. Coots—25 daily or in possession.

Geese

Dates: October 6 through October 18, 2007; and October 27, 2007 through January 27, 2008 statewide except in the North Goose Zone, where the hunt will run October 6, 2007 through January 19, 2008.

North Goose Zone boundary: A general reference map of this boundary is available on page X. Boundary begins at I-15 and the Weber-Box Elder county line; east and north along this line to the Weber-Cache county line; east along this line to the Cache-Rich county line; east and south along the Rich county line to the Utah-Wyoming state line; north along this line to the Utah-Idaho state line; west on this line to Stone, Idaho-Snowville, Utah road; southwest on this road to Locomotive Springs Wildlife Management Area; east on the county road, past Monument Point and across Salt Wells Flat, to the intersection with Promontory Road; south on Promontory Road to a point directly west of the northwest corner of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge boundary; east along an imaginary line to the northwest corner of the Refuge boundary; south and east along the Refuge boundary to the southeast corner of the boundary; northeast along the boundary to the Perry access road; east on the Perry access road to I-15; south on I-15 to the Weber-Box Elder county line.

Bag limits: White geese (snow, blue, Ross')—4 per day, 8 in possession;
Dark geese (cackling, Canada, white-fronted, brant)—3 per day, 6 in possession.

Swan (holders of swan permits only)

Dates: October 6, 2007 through December 9, 2007, unless the Division's monitoring program indicates that 10 trumpeter swans have been taken. If 10 or more trumpeter swans are taken, the season will be closed earlier than December 9.

Bag and possession limit: 1 swan. (The holder of a swan permit may take and possess one swan during the 2007 season.)

Area open to hunting: Boundary begins at I-80 / I-15. North on I-15 / I-84 to the Forest Street

exit. West on Forest Street to the Bear River Refuge boundary. North and west along the Bear River Refuge boundary to the furthest west boundary of the Refuge. West along an imaginary line to Promontory Road. North on Promontory Road to the intersection of SR-83. North on SR-83 to I-84. North and west on I-84 to SR-30. West and south on SR-30 to the Utah-Nevada state line. South on the Utah-Nevada state line to I-80. East on I-80 to I-15.

Rails

No open season.

Common Snipe

Dates: October 6, 2007 through January 19, 2008 statewide.

Daily bag limit: 8, possession limit 16.

Falconry

Ducks and coots: September 29, 2007, and October 6, 2007 through January 19, 2008, statewide.

Geese: September 29, 2007; October 6, 2007 through October 18, 2007; and October 27, 2007 through January 27, 2008 except in the North Goose Zone, where the hunt will run October 6, 2007 through January 19, 2008.

For a North Goose Zone boundary description, please see the "North Goose Zone boundary" portion of the Geese section to the left.

Common snipe: October 6, 2007 through January 19, 2008 statewide.

Daily bag and possession limits for ducks, geese, coots and common snipe: 3 and 6 birds, respectively, singly or in the aggregate.

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Special Youth Hunting Day

Utah Admin. Code R657-9-31(2)

Hunters 15 years of age and younger will have the marsh all to themselves on September 29, 2007 as Utah holds its annual Youth Hunting Day.

To hunt during the Youth Hunting Day, you must be 15 years of age or younger and have a Utah hunting or combination license and a HIP registration number.

Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult. The accompanying adult may not hunt or possess a firearm. Please see page X of this guide for more information about the requirements adults must meet to accompany a youth on the Youth Hunting Day.

The shooting hours on youth day are 8:00 am to sunset (please see the shooting hours table on pages XX–XX for more information).

The date and bag limits for the Youth Hunting Day are as follows:

Date: September 29, 2007

Bag limits:

Ducks and mergansers—7, except no more than 2 hen mallards; no more than 2 redheads; no more than 1 canvasback; no more than 1 pintail; and no more than 3 scaup.

Coots—25

White geese (snow, blue, Ross')—4

Dark geese (cackling, Canada, white-fronted, brant)—3

Snipe and swan—None

<end info box>

DEFINITIONS

CFR 20.11, Utah Code § 23-13-2 and Utah Admin. Code R657-9-2

“Aggregate daily bag limit” means the maximum number of migratory game birds permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season when such person hunts in more than one specified geographic area and/or for more than one species for which a combined daily bag limit is prescribed. The aggregate daily bag limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest daily bag limit prescribed for any one species or for any one specified geographical area in which taking occurs.

“Aggregate possession limit” means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination of species taken in the United States permitted to be possessed by any one person when taking and possession occurs in more than one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed. The aggregate possession limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest possession limit prescribed for any one of the species or specified geographic areas in which taking and possession occurs.

“Bait” means shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed that lures, attracts or entices birds.

“Baited area” means any area on which shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered, if that shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take migratory game birds. Any such area will remain a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all such shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed.

“Baiting” means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take migratory game birds.

“CFR” means the Code of Federal Regulations.

“Closed season” means the days on which migratory game birds shall not be taken.

“Daily bag limit” means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination (aggregate) of species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season in any one specified geographic area for which a daily bag limit is prescribed.

“Division” means the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

“Live decoys” means tame or captive ducks, geese or other live birds.

“Manipulation” means the alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include but are not limited to mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning or herbicide treatments. The term “manipulation” does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed or other feed after removal from storage on the field where grown.

“Migratory game birds” means those migratory birds included in the terms of conventions between the United States and any foreign country for the protection of migratory birds, for which open seasons are prescribed in this part and belong to the following families:

- (a) Anatidae (ducks, geese, including brant, and swans);
- (b) Columbidae (doves and pigeons);
- (c) Gruidae (cranes);

- (d) Rallidae (rails, coots and gallinules); and
- (e) Scolopacidae (woodcock and snipe).

“Natural vegetation” means any non-agricultural, native or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules. The term “natural vegetation” does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the year of planting is considered natural vegetation.

“Nonresident” means a person who does not qualify as a resident.

“Normal agricultural operation” means a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or agricultural practice that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“Normal agricultural planting, harvesting or post-harvest manipulation” means a planting or harvesting undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop, or manipulation after such harvest and removal of grain that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“Normal soil stabilization practice” means a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for agricultural soil erosion control.

“Nontoxic shot” means soft iron, steel, copper-plated steel, nickel-plated steel, zinc-plated steel, bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix, tin and any other shot types approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Lead, nickel-plated lead, copper-plated lead, copper and lead/copper alloy shot have not been approved.

“Off-highway vehicle” means any motor vehicle designed for or capable of travel over unimproved terrain.

“Open season” means the days on which migratory game birds may lawfully be taken. Each period prescribed as an open season shall be construed to include the first and last days thereof.

“Permanent waterfowl blind” means any waterfowl blind that is left unattended overnight and that is not a portable structure capable of immediate relocation.

“Personal abode” means one’s principal or ordinary home or dwelling place, as distinguished from one’s temporary or transient place of abode or dwelling, such as a hunting club, or any cabin, tent or trailer house used as a hunting club or any hotel, motel or rooming house used during a hunting, pleasure or business trip.

“Possession” means actual or constructive possession.

“Possession limit” means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or a combination of species permitted to be possessed by any one person when lawfully taken in the United States in any one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed.

“Resident” means a person who:

- has a fixed permanent home and principal establishment in Utah for six consecutive months immediately preceding the purchase of a license or permit, AND
- DOES NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

An individual retains Utah residency if he or she leaves Utah to serve in the armed forces of the United States, or for religious or educational purposes, and does NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

Members of the armed forces of the United States and dependents are residents as of the date the member reports for duty under assigned orders in Utah if:

- the member is NOT on temporary duty in Utah and does NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.
- the member presents a copy of his or her assignment orders to a Division office to verify the member's qualification as a resident.

A nonresident attending an institution of higher learning in Utah as a full-time student may qualify as a resident if the student has been present in Utah for 60 consecutive days immediately preceding the purchase of the license or permit and does NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

A Utah resident license or permit is invalid if a resident license for hunting, fishing or trapping is purchased in any other state or country.

An individual DOES NOT qualify as a resident if he or she is an absentee landowner paying property tax on land in Utah.

"Sinkbox" means any type of low floating device, having a depression, affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.

"Spoiled" means impairment of the flesh of wildlife which renders it unfit for human consumption.

"Tag" means a card, label or other identification device used for attachment to the carcass of any protected wildlife.

"Take" means to:

- (a) hunt, pursue, harass, catch, capture, angle, seine, trap or kill any protected wildlife; or
- (b) attempt any action referred to in Subsection (a).

"Transport" means to ship, export, import or receive or deliver for shipment.

"Waste" means to abandon protected wildlife or to allow protected wildlife to spoil or to be used in a manner not normally associated with its beneficial use.

"Waterfowl" means ducks, including mergansers, geese, brant and swans.

"Waterfowl blind" means any manufactured place of concealment, including boats, rafts, tents, excavated pits, or similar structure, which has been designed to partially or completely conceal a person while hunting waterfowl.

RESPONSIBLE OHV USE

A new website offers OHV riders a wealth of information including maps, forums, photos, course information and more.

While most OHV users are responsible, misuse results in disturbance to wildlife, damage to wildlife habitat and personal injury. Responsible OHV use requires riders to avoid closed or restricted areas, respect wildlife and wildlife habitat, obey helmet regulations and observe OHV operator age restrictions and regulations.

To help you protect your privilege, you can now log on to www.utahohv.org. On this new site, you can post questions, weigh in on current discussions, and represent your views to the rest of the OHV community. You can also find clubs and organizations, submit your photos, and learn ways to ensure access to wildlife on public land for future generations.

SHOOTING HOURS

Utah Admin. Code R657-9-33

Waterfowl, snipe and coots may be taken from 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset, except during the following days:

- on September 29 (Special Youth Hunting Day) shooting hours are 8:00 am to sunset;
 - on October 6 in Box Elder, Cache, Davis, Salt Lake and Weber counties, shooting hours are 8 a.m. to sunset; and
 - on the opening day of the pheasant and quail season (November 3), shooting hours are 8 a.m. to sunset statewide.
- A person may not hunt or take wildlife, or discharge any firearm or archery tackle on state-owned lands adjacent to the Great Salt Lake, on Division-controlled waterfowl management areas, or on federal refuges between official sunset and one-half hour before official sunrise.

Legal shooting hours for taking or attempting to take waterfowl, snipe and coots are shown in the following time schedule. Legal shooting times may differ slightly, depending on the area of the state where you're hunting. Please consult the time zone map to learn the differences.

Shooting hours table

WATERFOWL IDENTIFICATION

REVISED JULY 26, 2007